

Complications Anew in Slayings Probe

The already confused status of the House Assassinations Committee has become more complicated with the naming of an interim replacement for Richard A. Sprague, the staff director who was fired last week but reinstated on orders of other committee members.

The appointment, announced yesterday through the office of committee chairman Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex., named Kenneth Brooten, a staff lawyer, the "acting staff director." But Brooten was reported to be on two weeks' leave in Florida, while Sprague, the man he ostensibly replaced, continued to work at the committee's offices on a proposed budget for this year's operations.

The committee was created last year to investigate anew the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.